

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
SSM-05 SIG-02 PA-02 USIA-15 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:RUNDELAND:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----151537Z 010487 /45

R 142116Z MAY 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 110136

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 12

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 12, 1977:

Q. WOULD YOU SHARE WITH US INFORMATION ON THE FIRE WHICH  
BROKE OUT IN SAUDI ARABIA, CONCERNING THE PIPELINE?

A. THE REPORTS THAT WE HAVE ARE INITIAL; AND FROM WHAT  
I HAVE READ THUS FAR, DON'T REALLY ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT  
I HAVE SEEN IN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT YESTERDAY AT 3:00 P.M. SAUDI ARABIA TIME  
IN A PIPELINE BETWEEN TWO PUMPING STATIONS AT A PLACE CAL-  
LED ABQAIQ. THAT TOWN IS LOCATED 45 MILES SOUTH OF  
DHAHRAN.  
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AS OF EARLY THIS MORNING, THE FIRE WAS UNDER CONTROL, BUT  
IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT  
OF DAMAGE AND TIME REQUIRED FOR REPAIR. NOW WE UNDERSTAND  
THAT ONE PERSON HAS BEEN KILLED AND TWENTY-SIX OTHERS HAVE

BURNS OR INJURIES. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT THAT SOME  
AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE HURT IN THE FIRE. WE ARE ATTEMPT-  
ING TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION, BUT I CANNOT CONFIRM THAT  
ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INJURED.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY INFORMATION ON THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE?

A. NO, I HAVE NOT.

Q. THERE WERE -- THERE IS AT LEAST ONE REPORT THAT IT  
MAY HAVE BEEN A TERRORIST.

A. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION SUGGESTING SABOTAGE. BUT

I THINK AT THIS POINT I HAD BETTER REFER YOU TO THE OIL COMPANIES WITH REGARD TO CAUSE AND EFFECT ON PRODUCTION, DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IN GENERAL. I THINK THAT IS MORE EFFECTIVELY ANSWERED BY ARAMCO.

Q. FRED, THERE IS A SUGGESTION IN THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY, THAT DESPITE MR. VANCE'S ASSURANCES TO MR. ALLON THAT THERE WOULD BE NO U.S. SETTLEMENT IMPOSED UPON ISRAEL THAT THE ISRAELIS -- I THINK THE PHRASE WAS -- DO HAVE SOMETHING TO WORRY ABOUT. COULD YOU GIVE US A RUNDOWN ON WHERE THINGS STAND IN TERMS OF DRAWING UP SUGGESTIONS FOR A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING BEYOND THIS PRESS RELEASE THAT I ANNOUNCED A MOMENT AGO, WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID WITH REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, AND THE UNITED STATES ROLE IN IT. THAT CONTAINS THE LATEST IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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FORMATION ON WHAT WE CARE TO SAY; AND I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ADD TO THAT TODAY.

Q. THE REPORT OUT OF LONDON, AFTER THE VANCE-ALLON MEETING IN WHICH IT SAYS THAT VANCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF THE IDEAS THAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED IS THE SIMULTANEOUS DECLARATION BY THE PLO AND ISRAEL. IN THE DECLARATIONS, ISRAEL WOULD RECOGNIZE THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, WHILE THE PLO WOULD RECOGNIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

CAN YOU TELL US WHO HAS PROPOSED THIS IDEA?

A. NO, I CAN'T. WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY ON THE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON AND SECRETARY VANCE YESTERDAY WAS SAID BY THE SECRETARY; AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THAT. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFINGS  
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